UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1997/NGO/85
25 March 1997

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 19

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF INTOLERANCE AND OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF

Written statement submitted by the Association for World Education, a non-governmental organization on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[25 March 1997]

Constitution of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas: 18 August 1988

1. The Commission and the Centre for Human Rights should examine the fundamental texts of today's political and religious organizations in order to highlight from their contents those ideas, doctrines and ideologies that continue to create stereotype images and conspiracy theories leading to hatred, discrimination and conflict. (For some examples of conspiracy theories, see Daniel Pipes, The Hidden Hand. Middle East Fears of Conspiracy, New York, St. Martin's Press, 1996.)

2. Hitler affirmed in the preface to Mein Kampf 70 years ago: "The unity and uniformity of a doctrine can only be safeguarded if it has been fixed forever in a written text". His two volumes became a compendium of Nazi doctrine, a basic feature of which was a racial and religious hatred of the Jews, depicted as an evil race, whose ultimate aim was to destroy the "aryan" race and dominate the world. Hitler's variations on this grotesque theme were drawn from a crude forgery, "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion". The long history of this 1903 myth of conspiracy, and the havoc left in its wake, was recently documented in full by the French sociologist, Pierre-André Taguieff. (Paris, Berg International, 2 vols., 1992)

3. The 18 August 1988 Constitution of the Palestinian Islamic Hamas Movement is one example of this phenomenon. It proclaims a total opposition to any Middle East peace process, affirming that a jihad must be waged until Israel's destruction, after which the Land will be cleaned from impurity. Article 13 affirms: "There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavours". This was reiterated in a recent official statement: "We in the Islamic resistance, Hamas, call on our people and all Islamic, Palestinian and Arab forces to deliver the mercy bullet to the dying peace process and to unite efforts in resisting the criminal plots of the enemy". (International Herald Tribune, 25 March 1997, p. 8, col.2.) Referring to Zionists and Jews (called "the enemies"), the Hamas Constitution states: "Their plan is embodied in 'The Protocols of the Elders of Zion'" (art. 32).

4. Article 22 states that "the enemies" have long since taken over the world's financial centres, thus controlling the world's media ("news agencies, press, broadcasting, publications, etc."). "They" constantly stirred up revolutions, such as the 1789 French Revolution and the communist revolutions. "They" were responsible for the First and Second World Wars. Colonization was of their making, in order to exploit resources and spread corruption. Jews and Zionists established "the League of Nations through which they could rule the world" and also instigated its replacement by "the United Nations and the Security Council" for the same reason. "They" are behind all wars taking place everywhere. Last but not least, "they" formed secret societies such as Freemasons, Rotary Clubs, the Lions [Clubs], the B'nai B'rith and other societies worldwide for the sole purpose of sabotaging society and achieving their sordid interests.

5. Such conspiracy theories of history stress that the holders of power - "the enemy" - are operating from the shadows, often in a faceless way. These imaginary individuals - who are able to manipulate events - are not political office holders who can be democratically voted out of office; they can only be destabilized by terror. The link between such conspiracy theories and the current use of indiscriminate terrorism by Hamas - and by other groups - is direct.

6. Given this Hamas Constitution of intolerance, hatred and terrorism, the fundamental question remains: how should democratic States and the international community face such a resolute and ruthless enemy that is willing to use every diabolic technique of terror, as defined by Saint-Just 200 years ago in his L'Apologie de la terreur: "Terror is legitimate; it must be maintained as a regular and necessary system, a permanent regime".

7. Article II of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, reads: "In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part ...". Article III

provides that genocide shall be punishable, but also: conspiracy to commit genocide; direct and public incitement to commit genocide; attempt to commit genocide; complicity to commit genocide.

8. This links up with article 4 of the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, condemning "all propaganda and all organizations which ... attempt to justify or promote racial hatred and discrimination in any form"; and obliges under 4 (a) State parties to declare as "an offence punishable by law all dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, incitement to racial discrimination, as well as all acts of violence or incitement to such acts against any race or group of persons". Under article 4 (b), States parties "shall declare illegal and prohibit organizations, and also organized and all other propaganda activities, which promote and incite racial discrimination, and shall recognize participation in such organizations or activities as an offence punishable by law".

9. Have not the Commission and the High Commissioner for Human Rights a duty to denounce all those movements whose constitutions or basic charters spell out their murderous aspirations, often transforming religious and spiritual values to narrow politico-ideological ends?

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1997/NGO/86
27 March 1997

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 10 (b)

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES, INCLUDING:

(b) STUDY OF SITUATIONS WHICH APPEAR TO REVEAL A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS PROVIDED FOR IN COMMISSION RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII) AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1235 (XLII) AND 1503 (XLVIII): REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SITUATIONS ESTABLISHED BY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1990/41 OF 25 MAY 1990

Written statement submitted by Pax Romana, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[24 March 1997]

1. The purpose of the present document is to review the situation with regard to certain persistent patterns of gross violation of human rights which Pax Romana has been denouncing for a number of years. All of them are closely connected with undeclared states of emergency and with the phenomenon of impunity. Consequently, we are referring not only to those situations in which there has been deliberate failure to prosecute direct violations of the human rights of the populations concerned, but also to other cases where, through deliberate and totally unjustified delay, the true facts have remained unclarified because of the excessive period of time that has elapsed between the commission of the offences and their investigation.

2. At the same time we take the opportunity to inform the members of the Commission of further facts of which we are reliably informed.

Guatemala

3. Despite the efforts made to secure the demobilizing of the PACs and the further dispatch of international observers on 3 March, threats are being made against students, leaders of political parties and trade union members. Some persons have been murdered solely for having lodged a complaint of corruption. Investigation of these matters which have been the subject of formal complaints has never produced evidence or indications of culpability, even where the facts complained of were matters of public knowledge. For example, Narciso Mata Perez and his daughter Cruz Mata Santos were assaulted on 13 November 1996 in the village of Sechul. They were able fully to identify their five attackers, but the latter were not questioned concerning their participation in the attack. Oddly enough, the persons assaulted are members of the Committee for the recovery of local lands and the attackers whom they identified are relatives of a farmer who claims ownership of land in Sechul.

4. Whenever the eviction of lawful owners of land takes place, at least one person is killed, a number are injured and illegal arrests take place. We refer to "illegal arrests" because the forcible entry into and expulsion from the lands was carried out by the official forces of law and order acting without any judicial authority. Again, those responsible for the massacre at Xaman still remain unpunished. On 5 October 1996, the anniversary of the massacre, there was still no certainty that the persons accused would incur penalties for the offences they were accused of committing. A report by the MINUGUA mission asserts that there is no evidence that the victims of the massacre were armed. There is clear evidence that the army wants the accused soldiers to benefit from an amnesty.

5. We should like to believe that, with the new peace process, all these cases may be properly investigated and that those responsible may be punished. The prosecution of offenders and a pardon or national reconciliation are not mutually exclusive. We believe in the processes of reconciliation and pardon, but only once the responsibilities of all concerned have been determined. If this is not done, those who have suffered attacks are not prepared to agree to a pardon. As a Christian organization, we believe that peace must be based on justice. 1/

Colombia

6. The agrarian struggles in Colombia have long given rise to flagrant violations of human rights that still go unpunished. A clear example of this is the violent evictions, with demolition and burning of dwellings and destruction of crops, that were carried out in the area of the Bellacruz estate, actions which are said to be the responsibility of the very powerful Marulanda family and to have been carried out by paramilitary patrols entirely financed by that family. We refer here to Carlos Arturo Marulanda Ramírez and his brother Francisco Alberto. An eviction operation carried out on this farm on 22 April 1996 resulted in the death of seven peasants who had previously complained of such attacks. These incidents have never been investigated. The various Governments have not only ignored these grave matters and the many

national and international complaints concerning them, but have entrusted those involved in them with important political and diplomatic responsibilities. Pax Romana hopes that diplomatic dismissals will be accompanied by judicial measures to determine responsibilities. 2/

Republic of Korea

7. In this country the violation of human rights does not take place in the same way as it does in the cases previously mentioned. Impunity, or semi-impunity, is cloaked in a mantle of legality. Torture, as an official method of investigation, is punishable under article 125 of the Penal Code by a maximum penalty of 5 years' imprisonment and 10' years deprivation of rights, the maximum level of these penalties being applicable only where the offences have resulted in injury or death. At the same time, the ordinary offence of causing bodily harm is punished by a maximum of 7 years' imprisonment and 10 years' deprivation of rights, punishments which exceed those applicable where this harm is caused by the practice of torture. These provisions are contrary to article 4, paragraph 2, of the Convention against Torture, which was signed by the Government of the Republic of Korea in 1995. As is well known, article 4 of the Convention provides that torture carried out by those responsible for public investigations shall be punishable by appropriate penalties which take into account the grave nature of the offences. This is not the situation in the Republic of Korea.

8. It is necessary to add that, according to calculations by humanitarian organizations operating in the country, only one tenth of the cases of torture reported give rise to judicial proceedings, and 90 per cent of such proceedings are terminated for lack of evidence. The prescription which applies in the other cases is due to deliberate delays in the investigation of the charges or to procedural delays in dealing with 90 per cent of the reported cases of torture, which therefore remain unpunished. 3/

Tibet

9. There has been a continuation of the illegal arrests, disappearances, acts of torture and, generally, persecution, in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of opponents of the unconditional annexation of Tibet by the People's Republic of China. Unlawful arrests and the practice of torture by government forces continue to be allowed. We believe that, with the recent changes that have taken place in the approach to dealing with the governance of the People's Republic of China itself and the observance of civil and political rights, all such acts contrary to the ideals of the United Nations will not only cease to exist but will cease to enjoy the impunity from which they currently benefit. 4/

Kosova

10. The frequently denounced violation of human rights in this small republic, currently a province of Serbia, must be regarded as constituting a consistent pattern of gross violation of rights. Certain cases may be cited as examples. Mr. Nait Hasani is currently at an unidentified location "thanks" to action by the Serbian police which, on 31 January 1997, after

having brought him to the hospital in Prishtina for two days, then released him without communicating his new whereabouts. The Serbian administration has refused to give any information concerning him to his lawyer.

11. Four lawyers reported that 55 Kosova Albanians were imprisoned, 49 of them being released after 10 days. All the prisoners had been brutally tortured for the purpose of making them sign confessions. A delegation of the European Parliament which met members of the Parliament of the Republic of Kosova in Prishtina commented that they found it "incredible that, in the late twentieth century, in the very centre of Europe, such medieval torture should be practised in Kosova". It was so medieval that Besnik Restelica died as a result of the torture inflicted upon him, although his father was told that he had committed suicide in his cell. This demonstrates that even the security forces of Serbia seek to evade their responsibility, knowing that their acts are unlawful. 5/

12. Pax Romana believes that the most flagrant patterns of consistent and gross violation of human rights occur under undeclared states of exception involving martial law with grave limitations on the guarantee of exercise of rights. Consequently, Pax Romana recommends to the Commission the adoption of the following measures:

(i) Adoption of a resolution approving the appointment of a special rapporteur on undeclared states of emergency, since violations of human rights continue to be the most neglected matter in these situations; or, alternatively, extension of the mandate of Mr. Leandro Despouy to cover such states of emergency;

(ii) Adoption of a resolution urging States to establish juridical machinery and institutions to protect human rights against the plague of impunity, in implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993 and Commission resolution 1996/50.

(iii) Ensuring that removal of Mr. Carlos Arturo Marulanda Rodriguez from membership of the Colombian diplomatic delegation to the European Union is not merely a symbolic act, but marks the beginning of juridical measures to combat impunity in Colombia.

Notes

1/ See E/CN.4/1997/34, paras. 162 and 163, and General Assembly resolution 51/198. See also E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, paras. 174 et seq., which report on cases of torture from October 1994 to June 1996.

2/ It is no coincidence that the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances received reports of 16 further disappearances in Colombia. See E/CN.4/1997/34, paras. 121 and 122; the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on torture in document E/CN.4/1997/7, para. 64, and decision 32/1996 of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (E/CN.4/1997/4/Add.1).

3/ See the report of the Special Rapporteur on torture, E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, paras. 400 et seq. and decisions 49/1995 and 25/1996 of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (E/CN.4/1997/4/Add.1).

4/ See the recommendations of various United Nations bodies: decision 19/1996 of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (E/CN.4/1997/4/Add.1); E/CN.4/1997/7, para. 61, and also the six new cases of enforced disappearance in 1996 referred to in the report E/CN.4/1997/34, particularly paragraphs 109 and 110. See also the forcefulness of the latest resolution (20 February 1997) of the European Parliament condemning China's occupation of Tibet (DOC RC/320/320475).

5/ See resolution 51/111 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, adopted in December 1996.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1997/NGO/87
27 March 1997

Original: ENGLISH and FRENCH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-third session
Item 10 of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Written statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[24 March 1997]

1. The defence of the rights of members of parliament constitutes a priority for the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the world organization of national parliaments. Indeed, the Union considers that in order for parliamentarians to be able to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in their respective countries they must themselves fully enjoy their human rights.

2. In 1976, the IPU established a Procedure for the Examination and Treatment of Communications concerning Violations of the Human Rights of Parliamentarians. A Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, made up of five MPs representing the different geopolitical regions, was entrusted with investigating complaints. The Committee meets in camera four times a year and, in a first stage, examines the cases laid before it confidentially in the light of international and national human rights norms. Under certain circumstances, the Committee may present at the two annual sessions of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, the Union's plenary governing body, a public report accompanied by recommendations for action. A file is only closed when the Committee or the Inter-Parliamentary Council considers that the case has been settled in conformity with international human rights standards or does not warrant any further action by the Union.

3. The Committee is currently examining, under its public procedure, 20 cases concerning 109 MPs in the following countries: Albania, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Togo, Tunisia and Turkey. In some of these cases, important developments have taken place since the Committee's last session in January 1997.

4. The ultimate violation of a parliamentarian's rights, and hence of the right of the people to take part in the conduct of public affairs, is the dissolution or suspension of parliament or failure to recognize the outcome of elections. Thus, the Committee and the Council condemned the suspension of the National Assembly of Burundi in June 1996, which they considered as a violation of the fundamental right of the elected members of the Assembly to perform the mandate entrusted to them and thus a violation of the right of the people to participate in the conduct of public affairs. In January last, the Committee noted that, although the National Assembly had been re-established in September 1996, it did not enjoy the guarantees necessary for its functioning and that consequently the Assembly de facto did not exist. The Committee considered as a prerequisite for its functioning that the de facto Burundi authorities take all necessary steps to allow the exiled MPs to return to their country without fear for their lives and safety, thereby enabling them to exercise their parliamentary mandate.

5. Another case in point is that regarding MPs-elect from the Union of Myanmar. For several years now, the Union has expressed its indignation that the authorities of this country continue to ignore the outcome of the election of 27 May 1990: it considered in this respect that the National Convention convened by SLORC on 9 January 1993 is designed to prolong and legitimize military rule against the will of the people as expressed in the 1990 elections, and thus violates the principle established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that the "will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government". Moreover, in view of the persistent silence of the authorities to requests for information regarding prison conditions, and their de facto refusal to authorize an on-site mission, the Committee considered at its January 1997 session that the allegations of human rights violations are well founded, and decided therefore to report at the next session of the Inter-Parliamentary Council that the authorities of the Union of Myanmar are guilty of manifest violations of human rights.

6. In the wake of the coup d'état in July 1994 in Gambia, several members of the dissolved parliament were arrested and, as was the case of Mr. Lamin wa Juwaara, held in incommunicado detention without any charges being brought against them. They were recently released. No compensation has as yet been paid to them.

7. Many of the cases of which the Committee is seized concern members of parliament who are stripped of their parliamentary mandate or "recalled" by their parties, prosecuted, harassed, threatened and even assassinated, in the last resort, for having exercised their fundamental right to freedom of speech, a right which lies at the very heart of democracy as it enables views opposing the power in place to be expressed. A case in point is that of Sri Bintang Pamungkas from Indonesia.

8. At the close of a trial which may have been flawed, Sri Bintang Pamungkas, a prominent government critic, was sentenced on 8 May 1996 to 2 years and 10 months' imprisonment for allegedly insulting the President of Indonesia during a seminar he gave in Germany in April 1995. A charge under article 104 of the Indonesian Penal Code (crimes against the security of the State) of having instigated or participated in demonstrations against President Suharto on the occasion of his visit to Germany in April 1995, had to be dropped previously for lack of evidence. Mr. Pamungkas' party, the PPP, "recalled" him from his parliamentary seat, a decision which came into effect on 8 May 1995 after President Suharto had signed the official dismissal decree. On 29 May 1996, Sri Bintang launched a new opposition party, the Indonesian Democratic Union Party (PUDI), whose existence is not recognized by the Government of Indonesia.

9. Considering that Sri Bintang was first summoned and interrogated on suspicion of having instigated and/or participated in the demonstrations against President Suharto and that, when no evidence was found, the investigation - instead of being dropped - was shifted to statements he allegedly made at the seminar in Germany, the Committee has expressed its fear that this might denote a deliberate attempt to have him prosecuted. Moreover, the Committee considers that in making the incriminated statement as brought to its attention, Sri Bintang merely exercised his right to freedom of speech.

10. Moreover, recalling a constant position of the IPU that, once elected, all members of parliament hold their mandate by popular will, the Council and the Committee regret that Indonesian law empowers political parties to have representatives of the people "recalled".

11. Since the Committee's last session, new developments have taken place. Sri Bintang was arrested on 5 March 1997 and accused of subversion for reportedly having called on his party members to ignore the 1997 parliamentary elections.

12. The right to freedom of speech is one of the Committee's main concerns regarding the cases of several former Turkish parliamentarians of Kurdish origin who were sentenced - at the close of trials which might have been seriously flawed - to various prison terms for belonging to and supporting a terrorist organization or for making separatist statements. The Committee fears that they may all have been prosecuted solely for having exercised their right to freedom of expression and it deeply regrets that the Turkish authorities have so far not taken heed of the recommendations and appeals of several international bodies to release the MPs concerned, for example by way of an amnesty bill. The Committee has also consistently recalled decision 40/1995 of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, declaring their detention arbitrary. As regards four of them (Mr. Türk, Mr. Yurtdas, Mr. Alinak and Mr. Sakik), they were sentenced to a prison term exceeding 12 months and as a consequence are deprived of their political rights for life. Two of them, who are lawyers (Mr. Alinak and Mr. Yurtdas), have been debarred for life from exercising their profession. The Committee considered that "owing to these consequences, the sentences become harsh and oppressive and seem to reflect a deliberate attempt to prevent these former MPs from engaging in any future political activity".

13. On the occasion of its second visit to Turkey in April 1996, the Committee noted with interest the view of the Turkish authorities that "people should voice their views democratically". Considering that the MPs concerned had been democratically elected, that three of them who stood for re-election in December 1995 obtained many votes despite the many obstacles to their campaign and that they all voiced their views and that of their electorate democratically, the Committee wondered "what in the eyes of the Turkish Government constitutes democratic expression permitting Turkish citizens of Kurdish background to raise and discuss matters relating to the assertion of Kurdish cultural identity and the many human rights violations being committed in south-east Turkey".

14. The problem of impunity is a major concern of the Union in several cases regarding parliamentarians from Burundi, Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala and Togo who were either assassinated or severely injured following attempts on their lives or are receiving death threats. In all but two cases, namely that of Mr. Pavón from Honduras and Senator Cepeda from Colombia, the investigations into the crimes in question have produced no result or have not even been instituted. The Committee has consistently stressed that impunity constitutes a serious threat to democracy and human rights and that the State has a duty to ensure that justice is done. The Union has also consistently stressed that the victims of human rights violations or their families are entitled to adequate material compensation. In this respect, the Committee welcomed the commitment of the Government of Togo, as expressed at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights, to adopt measures to take into consideration the right to compensation for the families of the victims of past political violence and trusts that such measures will soon be taken.

15. The Union has been requesting since 1991 clemency for Mr. Sukatno from Indonesia who, after a trial whose fairness has been contested, was sentenced to death in 1971 for involvement in the 1965 coup attempt. Mr. Sukatno is now aged 65 and has spent almost 30 years in prison. On the occasion of an on-site mission and thanks to the co-operation of the competent Indonesian authorities, the Secretary-General was able to meet Mr. Sukatno personally in prison. In the presence of representatives of the Indonesian authorities, he noted that Mr. Sukatno was suffering from very serious mental and physical problems. In the decision it adopted on this case in January 1997, the Committee considered that keeping such an old and ill man as Mr. Sukatno in prison and subject to the threat of being executed was contrary to any humanitarian standards and certainly constituted an unprecedented case. It reiterated its pressing appeal to President Suharto to grant Mr. Sukatno pardon.

16. In recent years, the Committee has noted a growing tendency for criminal charges to be brought against political opponents. This was the case of Mr. Fatos Nano, former Prime Minister of Albania, who, in April 1994, was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment for having embezzled State funds in favour of a third person, something which he has always strongly refuted. The Union has consistently considered that his prosecution might have been motivated by political considerations. Mr. Nano benefited from an amnesty last month.

17. Mr. Khemmais Chammari from Tunisia, a well-known human rights advocate was sentenced in July 1996, under article 60 bis and 60 quater (4) of the Tunisian Penal Code, to five years' imprisonment for violating the confidentiality of the pre-trial investigation in a matter affecting the external security of the State. The Committee was concerned at the allegation that the Court had been unable to prove its case, and had doubts about the legal characterization of the alleged facts.

18. At its last session, in January 1997, the Committee was very pleased to note that, on 30 December 1996, Mr. Chammari had benefited from a conditional release. While warmly welcoming his release, the Committee requested additional information which the authorities have meanwhile supplied and which the Committee will examine at its forthcoming session (April 1997).

19. The Committee obtains regularly the cooperation of the authorities of the countries concerned. However, the authorities have sometimes argued that the Union is interfering in what they consider internal matters. In these cases, the Union has consistently stressed that its legitimate concern to ensure respect for universally recognized human rights can in no way be construed as interference in the internal affairs of a State. Indeed, it has consistently affirmed that the defence of human rights is a duty incumbent upon the human community on the basis of the internationally recognized principles set out in the International Bill of Human Rights, and applicable in all circumstances, in all countries and under any political system.